

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Davis & Gecks

Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension Inc

Davis & Geck Increases Productivity With Lean Methods

Client Profile:

Davis & Geck Limited, located in Manatí, Puerto Rico, is a manufacturer of medical and surgical devices for the pharmaceutical industry. TYCO Healthcare, an U.S. corporation, owns the company, which has been in operation for more than 15 years and currently employs 400 people.

Situation:

Davis & Geck manufactures thread at its chemical plant facility, which is then attached to and wound on a suture. The company was experiencing quality problems in its finishing area, and there was frequent downtime due to poor flow of materials. Excessive inspections aimed at controlling quality further slowed operations. Work-in-process (WIP) inhibited efficient movement on the shop floor, and a great amount of time was also spent moving materials from one place to another in the same room. After attending a lean manufacturing public seminar hosted by Puerto Rico Manufacturing Extension, Inc. (PRiMEX), a NIST MEP network affiliate, Davis & Geck asked the organization to get involved and help resolve these problems.

Solution:

PRiMEX suggested a four day kaizen blitz in the finishing area. By applying the principles of lean manufacturing to Davis & Geck's facility, PRiMEX helped the company dramatically reduce the amount of WIP on the floor, redesign the plant layout to group related processes and reduce wasted motion, reduce excess scrap produced by 7 percent, and devise a plan to continuously improve production time and waste.

Results:

Reduced scrap by seven percent, a savings of \$20,000.

Reduced necessary floor space by 15 percent.

Redesigned the work space to create more efficiency.

Reduced production time and waste to save \$109,000 per year, a reduction of 50 percent.

Testimonial:

"Material flow, scrap savings, and production time improvements were evident almost immediately. Also, high employee motivation level was achieved."

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Carlos Morales, Finishing Area Superintendent